The Long Island FISHERMAN

MAY 13th, ISSUE NO. 17, 1971

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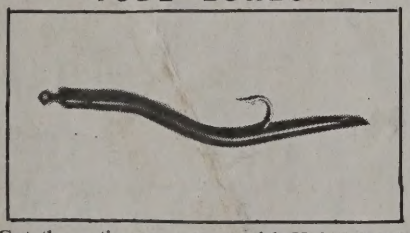

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NOTICE

The L.I. Diving Association is holding its first formal meeting tonight, May 13th, at the V.F.W. Hall on Pulaski Road, Huntington, New York.

Interested parties are welcomed or they can contact the club by writing: L.I. Wreck Diving Association, P.O. Box 302, East Northport, N.Y. 11731.

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YOUNG BOATMAN'S COURSE

Starting 15 May 1971 at the Stony Brook Yacht Club at 2:00 P.M., Flotilla 19-4 will conduct an eight lesson Young Boatman's Seamanship Course, sponsored by the N.Y. State Conservation Dept., Division of Marine and Recreational Vehicles. The course is open to the young boating public ages ten through fourteen. Upon successful completion of the course, certificates will be issued by the N.Y. State Conservation Dept. The successful students will be entitled to operate motor boats on N.Y. State waters. For information call P.N. Heins (516) 724-4408.

PLUS

Flotilla 19-4 will be conducting a pilot course on Scuba Diving starting in May, 1971. The course will be conducted by Lou Neuschwender and Avram Silverman. While the first class will be for 19-4 Flotilla members, it is expected there will be openings for other Auxiliary members. In any event, the program is not to exceed twenty-four students.

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE LARGEST WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA
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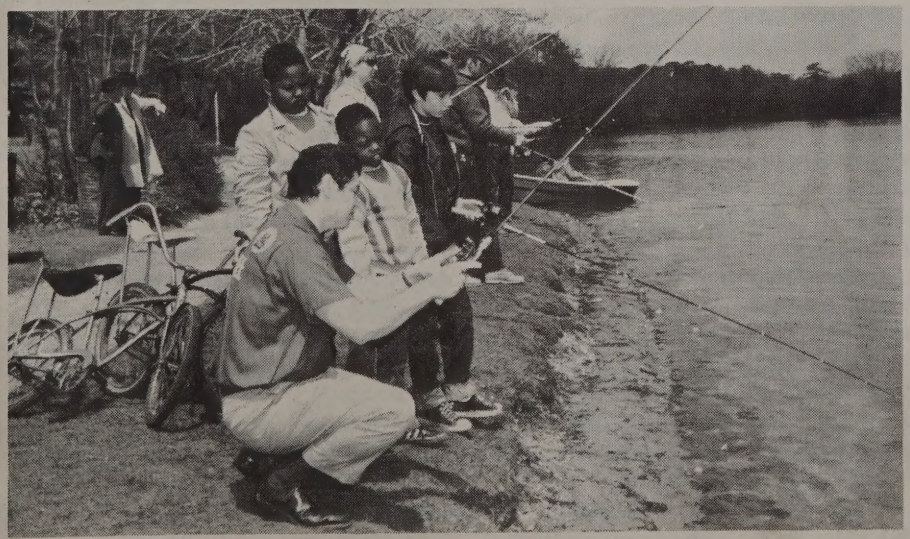
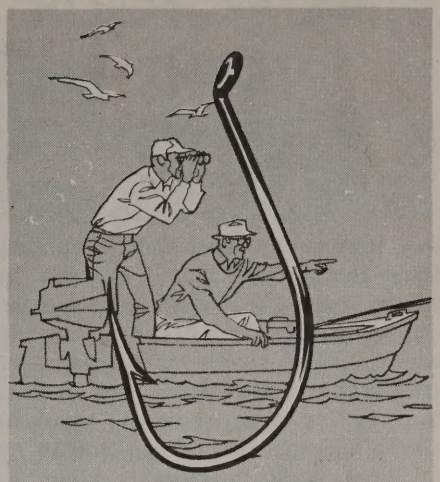
Instructors at the Belmont Lake Casting Clinic, held May 1st, included, left to right: E.H. Glasshagel, A. Gennaro - Garcia Representative, D. Webber - Garcia Surf Accuracy Champion, D. Lee - Eastman Kodak Company, M. Abrams - Shakespeare Company Representative, W. Fields - Supt. Belmont Lake State Park and H. Bonner - President, Outcasts F.C.

Prize winners at the Belmont Lake Casting Clinic included these youngsters: Margaret Muilenburg, N. Babylon - Garcia rod; Ralph Verni, Baldwin - Garcia reel; Paul Walker, N. Babylon - Berkley line; Wayne Rees, N. Babylon - Berkley line; Boy with plug on right not identified; P. O'Shaughnessy, Deer Park - Berkley line.



Enthusiastic youngsters get casting tips from one of the professional instructors at the Belmont Lake Clinic.



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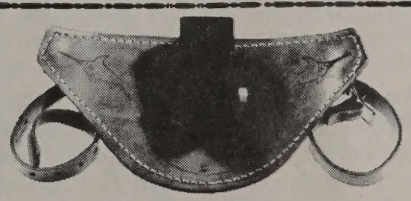

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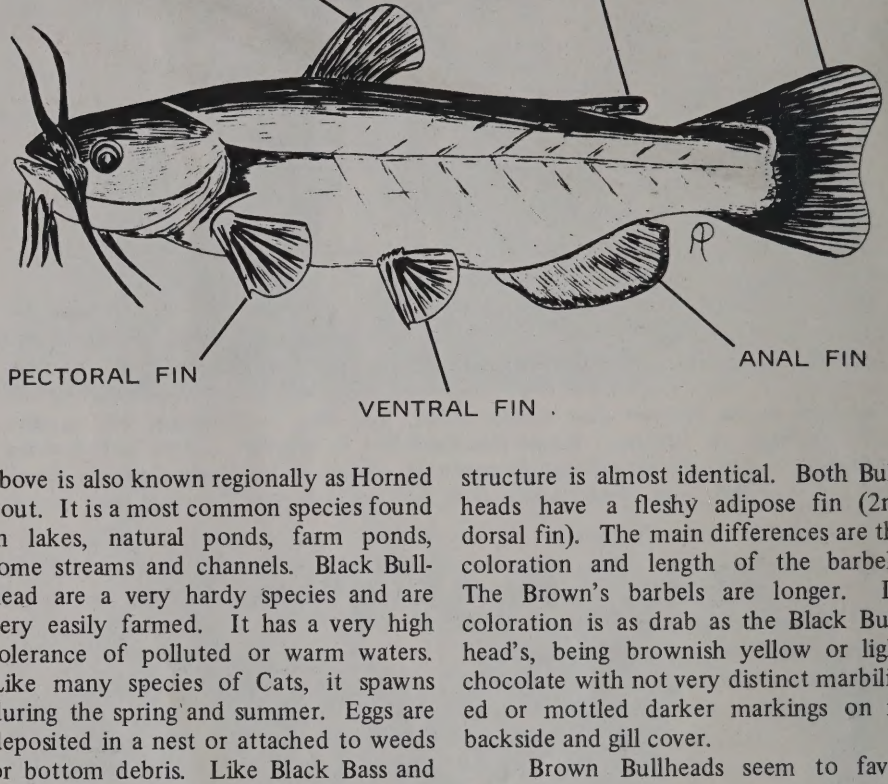
KNOW YOUR FISH!

BY TONY DI FEDE

BLACK BULLHEAD



The Catfish is probably the most well known and most easily identified freshwater species; that is, however, in general only. There are twenty-eight classified families of Catfish and knowing which is which can be quite a test. For our purposes I think just a brief description of the most common American species and some interesting points about other species should suffice.

Adult Catfish, depending on the species, range in size from less than two inches, weighing only ounces, to enormous Cats more than 5½ feet, weighing in excess of 390 pounds. The smallest Catfish is the Candiru, sometimes called Carnero. This little fellow is a parasitic fish that attaches itself to the gillrakers of other fish, usually Catfish. The Candiru feeds on his host's blood. This species is common to South America. The Amazon, South America, also harbots the largest of Catfish, the man-eating Catfish. It's doubtful this species eats humans though it is large enough to overpower a man. They reach 6 feet at 400 pounds. One more odd Catfish exists in the Nile River – the Electric Catfish. This species of Catfish, like the well known electric eel, can stun its prey with an electrical discharge.

The Mad Tom is an American species that commands some respect when being handled. A poison sac is located at the base of each pectoral fin spine. The poison is not lethal but still very painful. Guarded handling (a must with all spiny fish) is most important with this Catfish since the result of careless handling may be a jab as painful as a healthy wasp sting. The Mad Tom is usually 6 to 8 inches long and is found east of the Rocky Mountains. This little Cat is a prized bass bait in its range. It generally does not exceed 3 or 4 inches in length.

The Channel Catfish looks very much like the Black Bullhead except that its tail is deeply forked and the sides are irregularly spotted. This species is generally 1 to 3 feet in length to 15 or 20 pounds. However, the Mississippi River has yielded some exceptionally large Channel Cats that weighed in excess of 150 pounds. This Cat is an excellent foodfish and supports both a sport and commercial fishery.

The Black Bullhead Catfish shown above is also known regionally as Horned Pout. It is a most common species found in lakes, natural ponds, farm ponds, some streams and channels. Black Bullhead are a very hardy species and are very easily farmed. It has a very high tolerance of polluted or warm waters. Like many species of Cats, it spawns during the spring and summer. Eggs are deposited in a nest or attached to weeds or bottom debris. Like Black Bass and other Catfish, it defends and cares for its nest and provides protection for newly hatched larvae.

It favors muddy or silty bottoms but will inhabit any waters except clean, cool, clear water areas. The Black Bullhead, like most of its relatives, feeds on just about any other fish, insects, worms, grubs, mollusks and other bottom dwellers. The "wiskers" or feelers are barbels which are used to locate food by touch. Most species of Catfish are night feeders for the most part, but if you know where they are during the day, they can be enticed into biting a bait.

Black Bullheads are usually black; dark, drab green; or yellow-green on the back, paling to a milky yellow or yellow-white on the sides. The belly is usually yellowish or white. The fins are dark with touches of yellow possibly at the base. The chin barbels are dark colors or spotted.

Catfish are not a hard fighting fish, but they do provide a good measure of enjoyment to young and old alike – especially on light tackle. Bait is no real problem, just about anything from worms to fish to bread or bologna will catch a Cat. They are not spectacular but they are fun – and good eating also.

Another common species is the Brown Bullhead. The body is chubby like the Black Bullhead's and the fin structure is almost identical. Both Bullheads have a fleshy adipose fin (2nd dorsal fin). The main differences are the coloration and length of the barbels. The Brown's barbels are longer. Its coloration is as drab as the Black Bullhead's, being brownish yellow or light chocolate with not very distinct marbilized or mottled darker markings on its backside and gill cover.

Brown Bullheads seem to favor deeper, slower moving water than Black's, in lakes and streams, usually in weedy areas. This Bullhead grows to about 1½ feet and is usually no heavier than 3 lbs. It is comparable in angling value to the Black Bullhead and is also common to many lakes and streams in our eastern area.

As I mentioned, Catfish are a hardy species and they can live for some time out of water. As long as they remain wet they can live for many hours. They have the ability to breath out of water well enough to hang onto life quite successfully. This unique ability also allows them to live for extended periods in very warm, oxygen starved water.

One nice aspect about catfishing is once you find a few good spots, they are reliable. Bullheads especially tend to remain in the dark, muddy areas in much the same way as pickerel tend to stay in a certain territory. They provide nice, easy, enjoyable Sunday afternoon fishing. It's the best way I know of impressing your son with your uncanny angling skill – that is until he is old enough to know better!

Occasionally I like to sit beside a lake or stream with my pole proped up on a branch or across my lap and just soak up the sun and scenery. And catfishing fills my bill when it comes to good old lazy, restful fishing!

FISHING

by VLAD EVANOFF

SURF FISHING LURES

One of the biggest problems facing a surf angler is the choice of lures for surf fishing. He has to make up his mind just which lures to buy and which lures to bring along in his car and carry on his person. Of course, like most fishing, it is easier for the veteran angler who has fished a certain beach or shore for many years and knows which lures produce best under certain conditions. But even he must narrow his choice and make compromises because you can carry just so many lures in your tackle bag or pouch on your belt.

But no matter where you fish you should have the basic lures with you at all times because you never know which ones the fish will want on a certain day or just what kind of weather and water conditions you will run into.

The surf angler should always have some metal lures such as metal squids or heavy spoons such as the "Kastmaster" or the well-known "Hopkins." These are available in various sizes and weights and you should have a few light, small ones and some heavier ones. The metal lures can be used plain or you can buy those which have bucktail or feathers. You can also carry a jar of porkrind and add it to the metal lure.

Metal lures are especially effective for the smaller stripers when the water is rough. And they are also better than most lures if you have to make long casts or cast into a strong wind. But metal lures are not too effective at night and work best from daybreak to dusk. And if there are bluefish in the surf, you'll find the metal lures great for them.

Besides the metal lures every surf angler should have some plugs. Surface plugs such as the various "poppers" and "swimmers" and "wounded minnow" types are very effective when gamefish in the surf are chasing baitfish such as mullet. They also come in small sizes and light weights such as one to two ounces for light outfits and small fish. Or you can get the larger, heavier sizes for long casts, big fish and heavy surf outfits.

The "darter" type plug is another good one which is actually made to travel just below the surface, and as the name implies, it "darts" from side to side when reeled at a moderate or fast speed. But when fishing at night it is usually more effective if it is reeled very slowly on top so that it barely creeps along the surface.

The surf angler should also have a few underwater plugs. Some of these have cupped or grooved heads and they dive and also dart from side to side. Others have metal lips which make them dive and wriggle like a live fish. The balsa wood and plastic type plugs such as the "Rapala" and "Rebel" are underwater plugs which look like the real thing and they catch a lot of fish. But they are best when fished from jetties or along rocky shores where long casts are not required because they are light in weight.

Other plugs which are also lifelike in finish are the sinking types such as the "Mirrorlures." Some of these have lips which give them action, but others have to be worked with the rod.

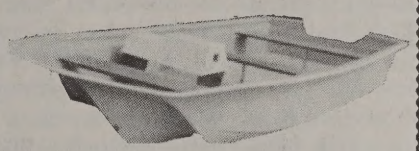
When choosing plugs for surf fishing, try to imitate the size and color of the baitfish present along the beach or shore at the time. Thus, if mullet are around, silver or blue plugs are usually best. In fact, most baitfish have white or pale yellow bellies, silver sides and blue, green, brown or black backs. So these colors and finishes are most effective.

If you want to catch big stripers in the surf, take along some rigged eels or plastic eels. Rigged eels are still killers for big bass, but they are a nuisance to obtain, rig and preserve and carry. So most anglers today usually carry the newer plastic eels which are also great bass producers and are more convenient to use. Most of these plastic eels have action heads which give them a natural "snaky" action which draws hits from the bass. They also come in different colors such as natural, white, silver, red, amber, black and purple. And they come in different sizes and weights for use with different rods and for small and big fish.

Rigged eels and plastic eels will often catch fish in the daytime but are best when used at night. You have to reel them fairly slowly for best results with occasional rod action or varying the speed of your reeling.

Another lure which can often save the day when surf fishing is the "jig" or "bucktail," especially when fishing from a jetty or breakwater or rocky shore with deep water nearby. They come in various weights and colors and some also have feather or nylon skirts instead of bucktail. You can also add a strip of porkrind to the hook. These lures sink fast and are especially good for reaching down deep to the bottom or when casting into strong currents, tides, rivers or canals.

You have to work a jig with plenty of rod action and for this the shorter, lighter spinning rods are best. In fact, if you really want to work a jig most effectively use the one-handed versatile rod described in an earlier column from 6 to 7 feet long. And to keep a jig high near the surface for fish that are breaking and chasing baitfish, reel it fast. Most of the time, however, try bouncing it along the bottom.



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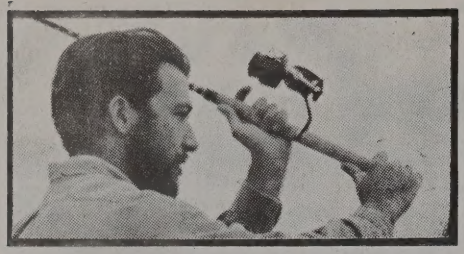


PLUGGIN' AROUND

BY AL REINFELDER

NOMENCLATURE FOR NOVICES

NATURAL BAIT – what fish normally eat as part of their diet, i.e.: herring, shrimp, worms, mossbunker, clams, crabs, eels, spearing, etc.

BAIT – may mean natural bait as above or artificial bait as below. When this term refers to natural bait, it may mean the bait you put on your hook, as in, "he uses clams for bait," or it may mean the natural bait in the water, as in, "look at the tuna pushing bait." When this term refers to artificial bait, it is a term covering lures in general, as in, "this plug is one of the best baits I've ever used."

LIVE BAIT – refers to living, breathing creatures used to catch larger living, breathing creatures, i.e.: live herring, live mossbunker, live eels, but also, live worms, live crabs, live shrimp. When the bait is dead, as when frozen bait is used, it is referred to simply as "bait," not "dead bait."

ARTIFICIAL BAIT – also called "lures." Refers to any man-made object designed to cause a fish to try to engulf it. Most lures are made to duplicate the appearance of natural baits. Most lures are made to appeal to a fish's eating instincts. Some look like nothing seen on earth. Some appeal to other instincts: curiousity, anger, competitiveness, etc. Some do not appeal to fish at all, but are thought to by anglers who buy them. A pure lure is made of materials, none of which are parts of natural bait, and which appeal to a fish's sense of vision only. Pure lures include artificial flies - which imitate insects or minnows, but are made from hair and feather; plugs - which imitate small fish, but are made from wood or plastic; spoons - which imitate shiny baitfish, but are made from metal. Not-so-pure lures include scent and taste additives to appeal to other senses. Impure lures incorporate parts of natural bait. Examples include eel skin jigs, rigged eels and bucktails with pieces of squid or shrimp attached.

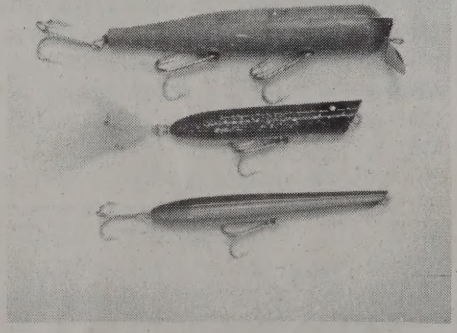
Lures which catch fish are called "good," "productive," "effective," etc.

Lures which do not catch fish are called other things.

PLUGS – Seventy-five years ago, when American black bass fishermen started carving imitations of minnows out of wood, a type of lure was created which came to be known as a "plug." Through the years thousands upon thousands of variations have been created. When these lures were duplicated from plastic, the name "plug" stuck. Today, anglers refer to any number of rigid wooden or plastic lures as "plugs." Typical Long Island plugs in use for striped bass or bluefish are: Striper Swiper, Atom Swimmer, Pikie Minnow, Gibbs Darter, Rebel, and Pencil Popper.

SURFACE PLUGS – are plugs designed to work on the surface of the water. They may float and pop like the Acme Propper Popper, or sink and pop on retrieve like the Striper Swipers and Strikers. They may wag back and forth like Gibb's Pencil Popper or the Zara Spook. They may swim across the top like Atom's Swimmer or Cooper's Goo Goo Eye.

Surface plugs take their names from the kind of action they have. Those that pop are called "poppers," those that swim, "swimmers," etc.

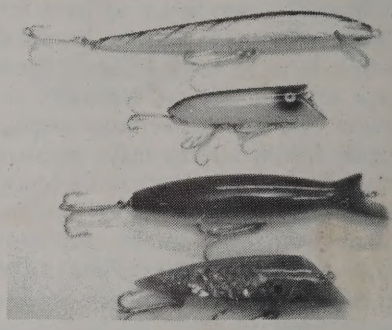


Top water plugs

SUBSURFACE PLUGS – are plugs which work under water. Usually these plugs are swimmers in the sense that a steady retrieve brings out a natural swimming motion in the lure. However, some subsurface plugs come through like torpedoes unless they are worked with the rod tip. Others, like Gibb's Darter, literally dart from left to right at an irregular rate.

Some such plugs float, but dive on the retrieve. Lures like the regular Rebels, dive very little. Others, like the Bomber, dive as deep as 30 feet. They are all called "floater-divers."

Some subsyrface plugs, like the Garcia King Spot, are weighted to cause them to sink as soon as they hit the water. They are called "sinkers."

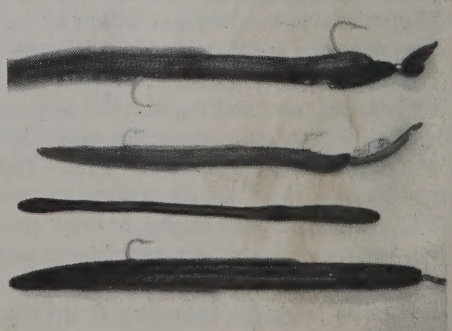


Underwater plugs

PLASTIC WORMS – The most important lure, in terms of sheer volume, in America today is the soft vinyl, or "plastic" worm. (Some still call them "rubber" worms - but this was never the case.) These flexible creatures which come in a vast variety of sizes, shapes, colors and flavors are used basically for black bass. However, the large ones (over 9 inches), like the Garcia Hog Tails, are very effective on striped bass in the spring. This year I took some bass on 9¼" Amber Hog Tails rigged on ½ oz. jig heads.

PLASTIC EELS – A direct outgrowth of plastic worms are plastic eels, which have become standards for striped bass fishermen along the entire Atlantic coast. The design consists of a weighted metal Action Head which gives casting and diving weight to the lure as well as built-in action. Typical of this type lure is the Alou Eel which comes in seven sizes and eight colors.

Plastic eels, rigged for offshore trolling, make excellent skip baits for marlin and tuna. The Garcia Wild Thing is such a lure.

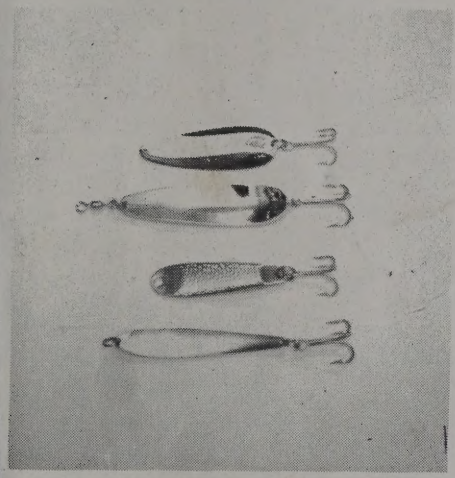


Artificial eels and worms

SPOONS – also called wobblers, are a class of lures composed of various formings of sheet metal. The most well known fresh water spoons include the Daredevle and the Silver Minnow. Along our shores we have the various Bunker Spoons, the Johnson Sprite, Squid Spoons, Tony Accetta's Pet Spoons, Drone Spoons, Stripo Jr., and the Hopkin's Spoon.

Spoons can be plated, polished, or painted. Except for snapper fishing, most Long Island salt water spoons are used for trolling.

SQUIDS – Heavy bodied metal casting lures are traditionally called squids. They may be cast tin, plated lead, plated brass or stainless steel. Typical modern squids are Acme Tackle's Kastmaster, Hopkins lures, and Pasquale Squids. Squids usually have built-in action and are most commonly used in surf fishing.



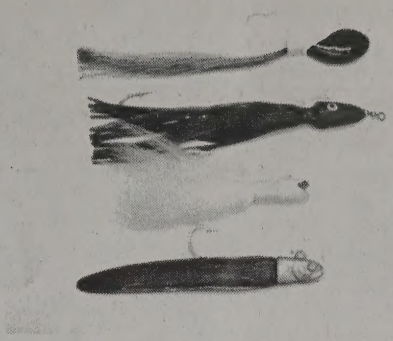
Spoons and metal squids

JIGS – are the oldest and most important basic class of lures in history. My own definition of a jig is that it is a weighted lure with no built-in action. Jigs consisting of a weighted head with trailing streamers of deer tail are called "Bucktails," "Bucktail Jigs," "Bull Heads," or "Doodle Bugs." Typical Long Island bucktails are the Upperman Bucktail, the Smiling Bill and the Berry Jig.

When such jigs utilize nylon, they are called "Nylon Jigs." When feathers are used the lures are often just called, "Feathers." When soft plastic is used they are called, "Bait Tails."

Jigs can consist of all metal, such as the "Diamond Jig," or of wood, such as the "Cedar Jig." There are also "Eel Skin Jigs," and many others.

(The study of jigs is complicated and important. Fortunately there is a book on the subject - BAIT TAIL FISHING published by A.S. Barnes, Cranbury, N.J. 08518. I don't hesitate to recommend this book, even though I wrote it.)



Bucktails, nylon skirts and soft plastic jigs

MULTIPLE TROLLING LURES – also called "Umbrellas," "Spreaders," "Montauk Rigs," "Christmas Trees" and '†/%*' - consist of a group of lures, usually rubber or plastic tubes, rigged to troll in a cluster or school-like arrangement. A typical commercial version is Garcia's Whirling Dervish.

MULTIPLE JIGGING RIGS – when three or more bucktails, streamer flies or tubes are rigged in tandem to be used in conjunction with a squid or jig, you have a "Jigging Rig." These are great for blues, snappers, pollock, fluke, herring, and mackerel in this area.

SPINNERS – are metal discs, usually tear-drop-shaped, designed to spin and flash about a fixed central shaft. In salt water spinners are mainly used in front of worms. Typical of these are the June Bug and Cape Cod varieties. Larger spinners have been used successfully on Multiple Trolling Lures.

FLIES – are unweighted constructions of hair, feather, tinsel and thread. Originally designed to duplicate fresh water aquatic insects, "flies" now also denote minnow imitations which salt water fly rodders u[illegible]

TUBE LURES – are lures constructed from rubber or plastic tubing. They come in a variety of colors and sizes and may have various forms of metal heads, or no heads at all. Most tube lures are used for trolling.

CASTING – is the act of throwing a lure or bait on a line. This can be done from shore, boat, bridge or jetty. If no reel is used it is called "cane-poling" or "hand-lining." If a fly rod is used it is called "fly-casting." If a totating-spool reel is used it is called "bait-casting," "conventional-casting," or "revolving-spool casting." If a fixed-spool or spinning reel is used it is called "spinning." If the spinning reel is closed faced, it is called "spin-casting." If you happen to be casting into the surf, it is called "surf-casting." If you are casting a lure, it is called "plugging," or "plug-casting," no matter what kind of tackle you are using.

TROLLING – consists of pulling a lure behind a moving boat. Any kind of tackle can be used, though revolving-spool reels are most common.

JIGGING – One form of jigging consists of lowering a jig to the bottom and working it up and down, or back to the surface with imparted action. This can be done from bridge or pier, but is usually done from an anchored or drifting boat. The act of imparting motion to a cast and retrieved lure is also called jigging. Around Long Island, the act of causing a trolled lure to dart forward and stop, is most often what is referred to as "jigging."

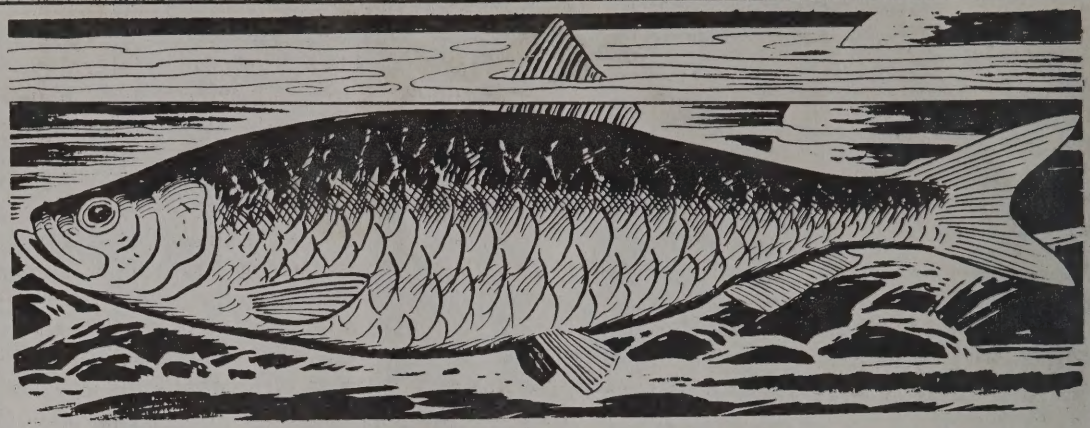
For an outline of the latest developments in modern lure design write for the free booklet, "ALL ABOUT LURES," Garcia Corp., Dept. LIF, 329 Alfred Ave., Teaneck, N.J. 07666.

(PHOTOS BY DON MILLER)

BLUES, MACKS, HERRING & DOGS

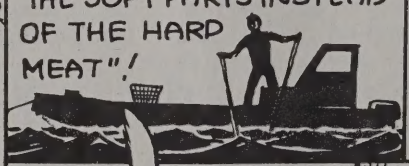
BY FRED GUARDINEER

OF 4,000 BLUEFISH TAGGED OVER A 5 YR. PERIOD ON THE EAST END OF LONG ISLAND, 90% CAME BACK TO THE SAME GENERAL AREA WHERE THEY WERE FIRST CAUGHT AND TAGGED. FREELOADING TERNS FOLLOW THE SCHOOLS OF VORACIOUS FEEDING BLUES.

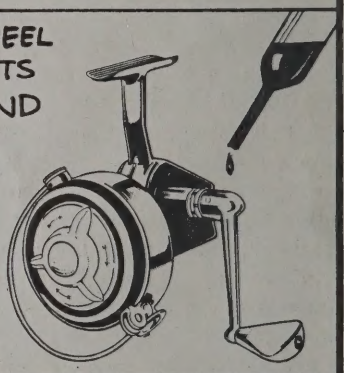


SPAWNING ALEWIVES OR "BRANCH HERRING" CROWD L.I. CREEKS IN SPRING. ALONG THE U.S. COAST 50 MILLION ARE TAKEN YEARLY. LANDLOCKED IN THE GREAT LAKES, THIS FISH FEEDS THE COHO SALMON.

THE BABYLON TUNA CLUB HAS A FLOUNDER CONTEST MAY 16. BAYMAN TRICKY DICK ECKHARDT SEZ, "WHEN USING CLAM BAIT, USE ALL THE SOFT PARTS INSTEAD OF THE HARD MEAT"!



EASTERN REEL CO. EXPERTS RECOMMEND SEWING MACHINE OIL. A DROP OR TWO WHERE IT SAYS "OIL".



A DOG'S FUR PROTECTS HIM FROM COLD, HEAT AND INSECTS. CLIPPING A DOG DEPRIVES HIM OF NATURE'S PROTECTION.

ANE, IS THE LATEST PRODUCT UTSIDE HUNTING DOGS. VOGES RS HANDLES IT—ALSO FOR HORSES.

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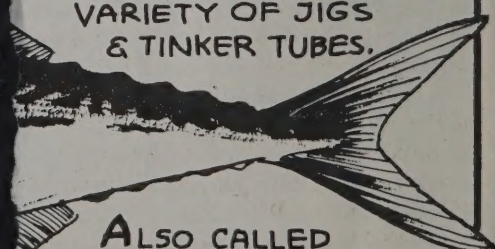

ALSO CALLED BOSTON MACKEREL

AIR BLADDER TO GIVE HIM TO CATCH AND GOOD EATING.

DIVING DIVING

By JIM McEVOY

Q – While diving recently, I found some very unusual shells. I would appreciate any information on how to preserve them.

George Cantwell

A – You will be very lucky if you find a good shell from a dead marine animal, for the sea will quickly destroy much of its original beauty. The finest specimens are collected while the animal is still alive. Gastropods (snails, limpets, whelks, periwinkle and conch) are some of the most popular types collected but seem to present the most problems to the beginning collector.

Place your specimen in a pot of water and bring it to a slow boil for about fifteen minutes. After boiling, allow them to cool slowly in the water. If you remove them too fast the rapid cooling may cause small hairline cracks. After cooling them, the animal may be pulled out of the shell with a slight twisting action. Wash the shell in a detergent solution, rinse thoroughly with clean water and dry.

On a recent trip to the Florida Keys, I found that some of the local divers preferred to place their catch next to an ant hill and let the little devils do the job of cleaning out the animal from the shell for them. The Floridian divers claimed that this was the best way because no part of the animal is left inside, which could happen with the boiling and twisting out method.

Sometimes the shell is covered with marine growth. Soaking the shells in Chlorox for several days may do the trick, however, keep an eye on them for you can damage a delicate shell. Some of the real pros use muriatic acid to bring up the shell, but it must be handled with caution and used right next to a running tap.

The Bivalves (two shelled, clams, oysters, mussels and scallops) can be placed in fresh water for a few hours until the shell opens. The soft parts can be removed and the shell washed with detergent, rinsed and dried.

After your shell specimens have been cleaned and readied for display, they can be rubbed with baby oil to restore the color and protect the shell. Wipe off the excess oil and polish the shell with a soft cloth. The oil treatment is recommended once a year. Do not use varnish, shellac wax or furniture polish. Eventually they could ruin your specimens.

Q – My diving buddy and I were having a conversation about regulators and he said that he had a better regulator than mine because his had a failsafe valve system. Can you tell me just what he meant by a failsafe valve? I have never heard of such a thing.

William Greenmeir

A – What your partner was probably referring to was the Upstream and Downstream valve system used in the construction of regulators. The downstream valve is sometimes referred to as a failsafe valve. The downstream valve opens with the pressure of the air flowing through the opening. This type valve requires a spring to hold them closed. The Venturi effect and mechanical leverage is used to open this type valve. It is basically like this: You take a bottle of water, turn it upside down, and the water flows out. You stop the flow with a cover on the outside of the opening. This is a downstream valve.

To make an upstream valve you could push a cork all the way through the neck of the bottle and into it. When you turn the bottle upside down, the cap would close off the flow of the water from the inside of the bottle and the more pressure the water exerts on it, the tighter it is closed. To get a flow of water, you would have to push up through the opening against the cap and the water pressure.

Now consider the water to be air pressure. If something happened to the regulator in its first stage and all the pressure of the tank was exerted on the upstream valve, it would be locked closed and the air would be completely stopped. But on the other hand, if the same thing happened with the downstream valve, the pressure would open the valve fully and allow the air to escape and free flow. At least this way you will have air. It may be in excess, but this is better than none. This is why the downstream valve is considered the failsafe valve.

Q – I have been diving for over a year and I enjoy it very much and think that it is the greatest sport. I have had no trouble with my equipment except that I find that the regulator keeps hitting me in the back of the head when I'm underwater. Is there anyway to correct this? If so would you please tell me how? And please explain the difference between a recompression chamber and a decompression chamber.

Arthur Sheater

A – Well Art, it seems that you are in the great fraternity of the lump heads, which includes myself. In reading your letter I immediately started to chuckle for it brought back the memories of the days when I too received the little lumps on the back of the cranium, inflicted by the regulator everytime I lifted my head. You would think that these occasional bumps would shake up the grey matter in the cranium enough to do a little thinking. But no, I suffered the lumps until an old timer told me to adjust my straps or use a crotch strap with the back pack. You can use a crotch strap on your back pack, but I have not seen them around for a long time.

Your best bet is to bring your back pack higher on your tank, but not so high that it will slip right off the tank. Position your back pack strap about two inches below where the tank starts to curve upward toward the neck of the tank. Loosen up on your shoulder straps a little more and let the tank hang a little further down on your back. You don't have to have it way up on top of your shoulders. The regulator should be about even or a little below the top of your shoulders. And don't forget to tighten up on that waist band strap, for if that is loose you will have trouble with the unti riding up on your back.

To answer your second question, I can only say there is no difference between the decompression and the recompression chamber. They are one and the same. It is a matter of semantics. When a diver is brought in suffering from the bends, he is recompressed in the chamber. The pressure is built up to correspond to a prescribed depth, which is dictated by the Navy Recompression tables. At this time you would call it a recompression chamber. After the diver's symptoms are relieved, the pressure is slowly brought back to sea level. During this procedure, you would call the chamber a decompression chamber.

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CONNECTICUT SCENE

BY DICK ALLEY

MAMARONECK

As mackerel catches had been good around the Norwalk-Bridgeport area, I fully expected a big blast from everywhere for this week's column, but sadly, it just warn't so.

Thanks be for the excellent flounder run, were the words of Fred Archer, when I called for my weekly report from the Mamaroneck Fishing Station. So far, the Bostons just haven't found these waters, so fishermen have to be content with flatties up to a pound and a half - - which isn't bad when you think of it.

GREENWICH

While the Sportsmens Den reports a few sparse catches of mackerel, anglers fishing these waters are for the most part enjoying the flounder run, described as the best in a decade. The first official striper was caught on a worm here by an un-named flounder fisherman, which is very disturbing to this writer. Recalling past seasons, when we trailered the little fishing machine to Greenwich waters for that first fling at stripers, and came home with fish every time, made last week's jaunt by Nick Curcione, Ed Stalling and myself a tragedy by comparison. We spent four hours fishing all of the productive spots, and only Ed came up with one short striper, on an Alou Eel naturally. Let's hope it isn't a preview of the bass run to come.

DARIEN

Al Schwabb was minding the Bait Shop, and tells us he is getting excellent flounder reports from waters here. These waters must hold the outer edge of the mackerel school, as several anglers report sightings of mackerel, but find the fish uncooperative for the most part.

NORWALK

Norwalk's top man in blue, Chief Francis Virgulak, went fishing with his brother Ted last Sunday, and they reported the flounders were great. When we called Rita Utz at Four Winds Bait & Tackle later in the day, they'd recorded 20 big flatties, the largest measuring 17 inches. A couple of un-named customers were raving over the mackerel, telling of fish to 2½ lbs. Calf Pasture Pier is also producing big flats, averaging a pound or better, which should ensure an excellent day for the Norwalk Striped Bass Club Jr. Flounder Derby to be held this weekend. I'll be on hand, and hope to bring you some photos of the winners.

John Mola really brought some mackerel news. Jerry De Rosa had come in the day before this writing and reported a big improvement over the weekend. Though he was on the water only a short time in rough weather, he'd recorded 39 macks. Doug Raymond, fishing over the weekend, took better than 150 but had to work hard as the fish weren't cooperating. John and I pretty well concur on the idea that the spawning fish will hit better as the water warms. He also adds that frostfish are hitting well.

Bill at Hickory Bluff reports the first blacks beginning to come in in that area, but that flounder slowed down a bit during the week.

WESTPORT

Ed Boland of the Westport Tackle Shop also reports a consistently improving mackerel run, coupled with some terrific flounder fishing. He and Jack Moran took 40 Bostons before running out of rigs last weekend. Jack's gonna save the ultra light rigs for casting from now on.

Flounder are beginning to move out, says Ed, and substantiates it with some good reports from the west side of Cockenoe Island. The onshore anglers aren't by any means skunked however. Gray's Creek is still producing. Seymour's Rock is producing well on outgoing tide.

Mackerel should be inshore within the week and Ed, in fact, saw fish in the mouth of the river and along the Southport shore over the weekend. The main school appears to be concentrated about a mile off Southport at this writing.

BRIDGEPORT

Bob's Bait tells of some good catches of mackerel outside Penfield Light. There seems to be a bit of striper action, but reports have it that the fish are of illegal size, and are being hidden as soon as they're caught. Guess it's time for one of the State Conservation officers to pay a surprise visit to that area.

Some Fairfield Beach residents are complaining of weekend fishermen littering the beaches with their garbage thrown over the sides of their boats. Don't be a slob. Take your litter to shore and deposit it in a trash can.

At Sportsman's Den, Zolie tells of selling a few mackerel rigs, and his customers advise him they're traveling across for better mackerel. A few stripers are being taken in the Lordship area, and flats are biting very well.

NEW HAVEN

Walt Janeczek of Outdoor Sports came up with the first GOOD striper report. Fisherman George Wakely from New Haven set the example with 11 bass in a days fishing at the West Haven sandbar, the largest a substantial 14½ lbs. Blacks are also beginning to really show in this area, with Sonny Eberg tallying 13 blacks, the largest of which topped 9 lbs. They were caught at the middle breakwater.

Mackerel have yet to invade this area, but bunkers have showed for the first time.

****

Capt. Benn of Perrywinkle Rd., Narragansett, R.I. was the first to respond with info on that area. He operates two boats out of Narragansett, the "Seven B's I" and "Seven B's II." The first carries 18 persons, the second 31. He offers both bottom and big game fishing, listing giant tuna, school tuna, pollack and cod among some of his quaries. While a later column will provide more details on boats in this area, I'll be happy to forward one of his brochures to anyone interested. Just drop me a postcard.

The 1971 Rhode Island Tourist Guide is hot off the press, and is available free by writing to: Tourist Guide, R.I. Development Council, Roger Williams Building, Hayes Street, Providence, R.I. 02908.

While the booklet lists all fishing events, it's lacking in information relating to party and charter boats. Maybe I'll write them a letter.

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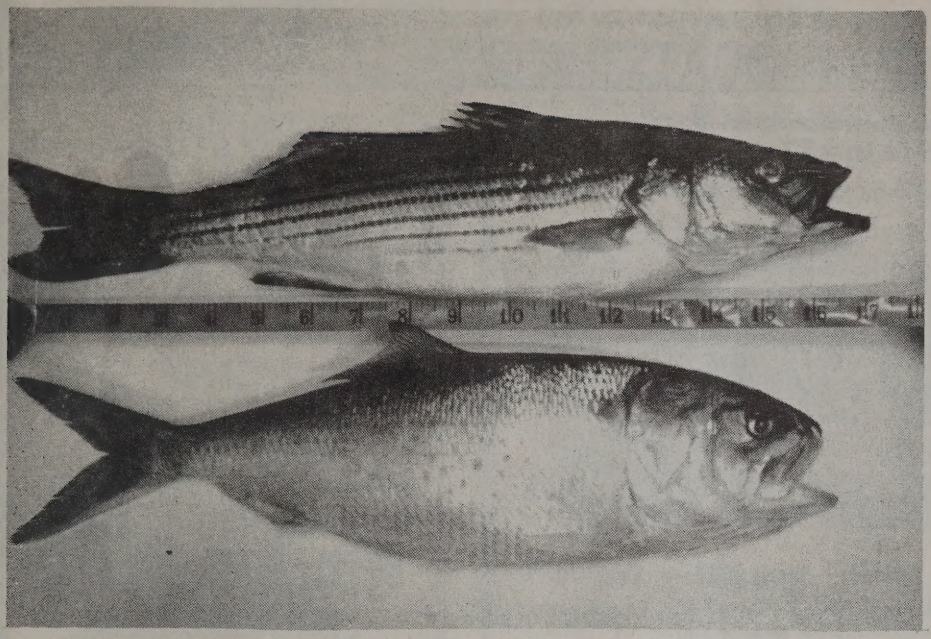


Small bass as bait for bunkers? Hopefully never, but the size of this bunker in relation to the size of a 17" striper certainly leaves one with uncertain thoughts. Both fish were taken from Hempstead Harbor this past weekend by our editor, Don Miller.

FRONT PAGE PHOTO

Bobby Long, from Brooklyn, provides us with what is probably a typical scene throughout all of Long Island's waters. Mackerel everywhere. Photo by Greg Beacher.

Al Reinfelder called to tell us of a couple of bass catches made by friends.

Glen Voparil took two bass along the Belle Terre shoreline out of Port Jefferson. Glen said he saw several surfcasters take fish from the beach.

Lou Palma caught a 7 lb. bass at the head of Peterson Cove in Little Neck Bay. Lou was casting an Alou Elver from the shore.

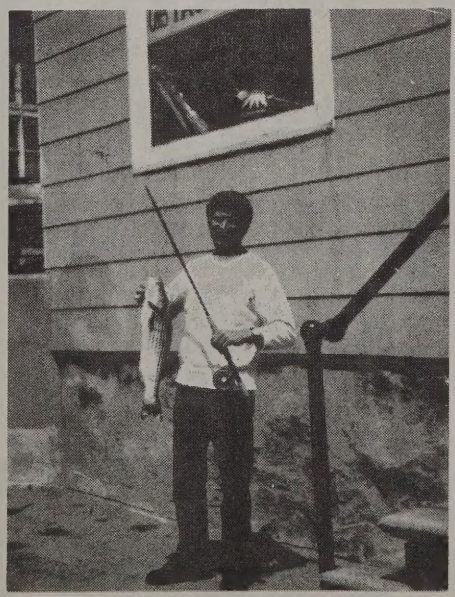
Pat Polak called in to tell us how she and her girlfriend, Carol Crawford, were slowly dragging worms over the sandbar at North Channel Bridge in Jamaica Bay, and were catching many small fluke, all around 10 inches. Pat said the Flax Pond Laboratory was very interested and told her to keep one for them. The only problem is that many fishermen think they are flounder and they are keeping them. The lack of small fluke over the past couple of years has been a cause for concern. Perhaps this abundance of small fluke is a good sign.

BRONX

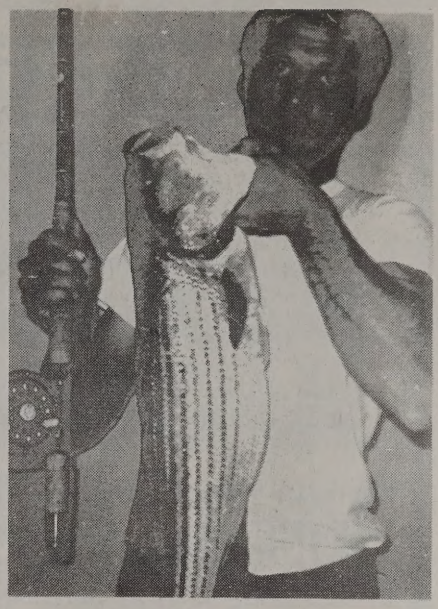
John Palmieri of the White Plains Ave. Gun and Tackle Shop called in to report a 32 lb. striped bass. Bob Miyoshi caught the big bass at Turtle Cove, City Island on a 5½" floating Rebel. The time was 10 p.m. The tide was high. John said there are many smaller bass around but this was the first big fish weighed in. There are also mackerel around.

CITY ISLAND

Jack Rumpf of Jack's Bait & Tackle reported that mackerel are stretched from Harts Island east and across to Hempstead Harbor. Mackerel trees and 2 oz. diamond jigs are taking them by the bag full. City Island based boats are really loading up with them also. Blackfish are making a good showing at the Radio Tower, Execution Lighthouse and most of the other rocky points throughout the west end. These are fair sized fish and a few have gone 4 to 5 pounds. Flounders are still around but they have taken third place behind the mackerel and blackfish.



John Gorrebeeck shows one of a pair of stripers taken on a fly rod off Hunters Island on Easter Sunday.



John Gorrebeeck scored again last week with his fly rod. This 6½ lb. striper was weighed and photographed at Al's Tackle Shop in Pelham.

HEMPSTEAD HARBOR

Connie Miller at the Glenwood Marine & Tackle Shop reported that small stripers have been keeping a few anglers busy regardless of the weather. Last week Charlie Dautel jigged a half dozen small bass from the waters at the powerhouse on bucktails and then wormed one off the beach in front of the Sea Cliff water company. Marc Brugnoni plugged a 4 pounder off Weeks Point and a 7½ pounder off Peacock Point. Dick Green has caught a few stripers at various points along the Glen Cove shoreline. Connie's husband, Don, tagged and released at least seven bass up to 9 lbs. that were caught just inside Weeks Point on Jig-a-doo eels and Rebel swimmers. Mackerel showed during the weekdays of last week but none were reported over the weekend. Small flounders are still in fair supply with a few small blackfish starting to show. Tremendous schools of bunkers made themselves known all along the shoreline, especially on those quiet moonlit nights of last week.

BAYVILLE

Bob Strecker at the Bayville Hardware told us that small stripers are being caught at the Center Island Causeway. He hadn't heard of any larger fish but a number of school size bass were taken by surfcasters. Boatmen are getting mackerel offshore and flounders are being caught along the beaches and the inside creek.

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COLD SPRING HARBOR

Milt Powles at the Vets Fishing Station reported that with only a few boats out over the weekend, remarkable catches of stripers were brought in along with blackfish and flounders. One boat had eleven bass from 4 to 9 lbs. that were caught from Whitewood Point south. Both shores had fish with upwards of 60 stripers reported over the weekend. The flounder fishermen are finding blackfish mixed in with their catches; these have been made in the shallow waters of the harbor. Davy Watenguard had a 6 lb. blackfish in his catch. Last Friday one boat returned with 17 mackerel caught outside the harbor.

NORTHPORT

Earl Sammis at the Greenlawn Sports Shop said that some striper activity has started inside Centerport Bay at Little Neck Beach. One customer had five stripers early Monday morning in the 4 to 6 lb. size. He used a mackerel colored Creek Chub popper and a combination of spoon and rubber worm. Last Friday some fair catches of mackerel were reported but the weekend offered no reports. Flounder activity remains the same but the better fishing is further to the east, down off Smithtown. Earl hasn't heard of any blackfish caught but assumes that they should be starting to hit very soon.

SMITHTOWN

Bob Danks at the Beacon Fishing Station told us that the bay is loaded with mackerel. Some boats have returned with upwards of 100 of these fish. The rocky points along Callahans Beach were producing blackfish and the outstanding catch of the weekend was made by Vince Keating who weighed in a 9½ lb. blackfish. Flounders are good in size and numerous. Fishermen have their choice, mackerel, blacks, or flounders.

PORT JEFFERSON

John Caraftis of the Caraftis Fishing Station reported that stripers up to 16 lbs. were caught along the cove at Belle Terre Beach. Frank Olevick had 9 stripers. Plugs with mackerel finishes seemed to work best. A 12 lb. blackfish was caught up inside Conscience Bay where big blacks have always shown at this time of the year. The jetties were also the scene for blackfish catches. Flounders in the 1½ lb. size are caught at the turn of the high tide along most of the beaches on the Sound side. Mackerel are so numerous that tremendous catches are a regularity. They have shown best at Buoy 11 but other schools have worked their way near the breakwaters and even inside the harbor.

Capt. Stewart Cash, skipper of the "Falcon II," reports flounder fishing is good in the Port Jefferson area. There are also mackerel and the first sign of blacks. Ricky Johnson and a party of eight from New York City came back with 75 flounder up to 2 lbs., a bucket full of mackerel and some blackfish. A 3 lb. blackfish copped the pool.

Capt. John Fischer, skipper of the "Betty W," called in with a good flounder fishing report off of the Shoreham area. Eight members of the Lighthouse Fishing Club of Nassau caught 132 flounders from 1½ to 2½ lbs. along with 5 good sized blackfish. Charles Fountain was the pool winner with a 5 lb. blackfish. On Saturday, Dick Brungello took the day's pool with a 3 lb. blackfish. Flounders averaged about 15 per man and a number of mackerel were jigged off Buoy 11.

Capt. Bill Littlefield, skipper of the "Jib III," called to report good mixed catches aboard the Jib III and the Port Jefferson Ace last Saturday. A fair number of blackfish up to 4 or 5 lbs., flounders in good supply, and mackerel were all taken. The fares were satisfied with the day's fishing.

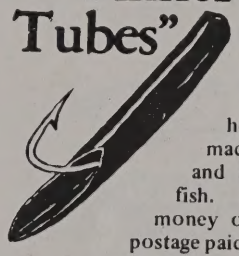
MOUNT SINAI

Ralph of Ralph's Fishing Station said that there are flounders, blacks and miles of mackerel for the taking. Fishing couldn't be better but the weather could stand lots of improvement. The stretch of beaches to the east have good sized flounders and a fair showing of blackfish. Mackerel are more than plentiful offshore.

NEW SUFFOLK

Friday's fine weather also brought fine fishing for Eliot Dominguez and Victor Gonzalez of Brooklyn. Our staff man saw them come into Marty's Fishing Station with over 600 mackerel and 42 big flounder. They fished right in front of the station. Also at Capt. Marty's Station we met Jacob Sengel of Fishing Unlimited, who caught 110 flounder and 6 mackerel. Fishing with his son, Ken, and fellow Ronkonkoma postman, Henry Will, they fished 500 yards S.E. of Buoy 23.

"Tinker Tubes"



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Walter West, from Brooklyn, with the 63 lb. 11 oz. pool winning cod worth $568.00 caught aboard the "Viking Star" on the May 3rd Andrea Doria trip. "Weighed 15 hours after it was caught and with an empty belly, it is possible that it could have gone better," stated Capt. Paul Forsberg.

Walter West with his 63 lb. cod and Frank Genovese of Bayville with his 52 lb. cod corral Richard Knapp who caught the smallest fish at the Andrea Doria Wreck. It was a red fish that was as brilliant as it's name implies.

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MONTAUK

Capt. Les Behan, skipper of the "Peconic Queen II," was once again harassed by the weather on this his second trip and his first 2-day trip to the Andrea Doria Wreck. On the way out they hit wind 25 to 35 knots, snow, sleet and rain. When they arrived they had some trouble holding at anchor but they did manage a few hours of fishing. That evening Capt. Behan dropped the anchor just off the wreck and settled down for the night. Some fishermen fished in the dark and proved cod and hake could be caught at night. The next day the weather settled down a bit but it was still rough, however, they were at least able to hold at anchor. On both days it was a slow pick with the cod but the hake were abundant. The first day pool winner was Larry Worksman of Fort Salonga. Larry had a total of eight fish, the largest and the pool winner was a 43 lb. cod. Larry collected $700.00 prize money.

On the second day, subscriber Anton Croenlein of Mineola took the pool with a 47 lb. codfish. It turned out to be a pretty good trip despite the weather. Capt. Behan advises, "If you're not a hardy fisherman, you shouldn't attempt this type of fishing. You can never tell what's going to happen out there and it's a long way from home."

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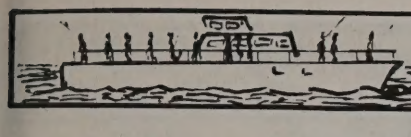

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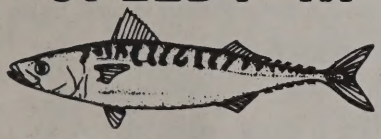
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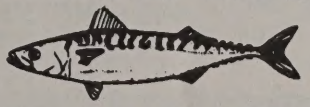
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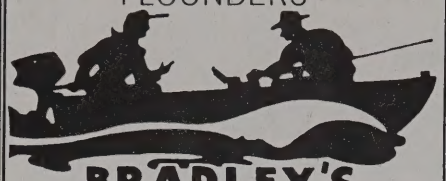

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MONTAUK

Larry Keller of Lake Montauk Marina reported flounder and cod fishing at Washington Shoal at Shagwong is good. A few pollack are being caught from time to time. Blackfish have started to show at Shagwong. Very few bass are being caught. It's still early but some trollers are trying. Last weekend's weather hampered fishing; better things are expected.

Mrs. Tuma of Tuma's Dock called to report codfishing was stable off Block Island and Shagwong despite the nasty weather conditions. Snowshoe flounders are productive and are being caught up to 3 pounds. No bass as of yet, however, anglers are trying. There are small flounders located at the breakwater jetty.

SAG HARBOR

Capt. Clark Bellows, skipper of the "Capt. Clark II," reports he is now fishing the Gardiners Island area exclusively. Tabaccolot, the Ruins and Green Hills are all producing nice fish. The average 2 lb. flatties are being caught consistently except when the wind blows hard. The pool fish is usually around 3 lbs. The first blackfish are beginning to show.

HAMPTON BAYS

Capt. Tom Johnson, skipper of the "Capt. Clark," called in to report that the eight passengers aboard on Sunday had their fill by 12 noon. Fishing in the Basket area in Shinnecock Bay, the action was hot and heavy. Capt. Johnson is fishing both the Peconics and Shinnecock, depending on which way the wind is blowing. The Peconics hold flounder, mackerel, and the newly arrived blackfish.

Alicia Poroski of the Three Aces Fishing Center reported one angler (nameless) caught 16 stripers, all keepers, last Saturday while casting plugs from the surf west of the Shinnecock Inlet. The bass were produced on a variety of plugs. The flounder fishing at Shinnecock Bay and the canal areas is excellent at the present time. Mackerel fishing is great in the Peconic Bay area. Everyone there is catching fish. No blackfishing locally, however, action has started at Mattituck.

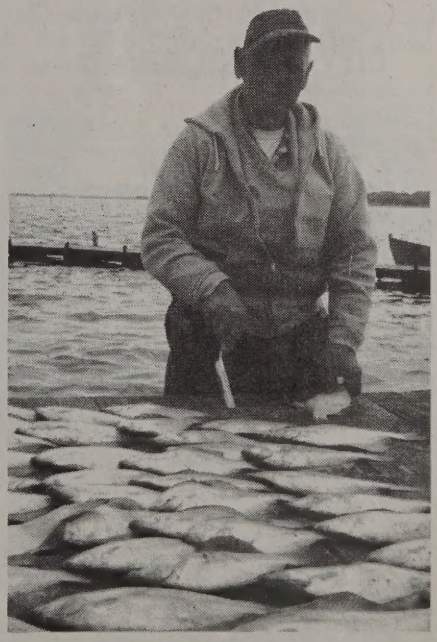
Steve Gural, Mike and Ed Tichansky pose over a table full of Shinnecock flounder. They fished out of Tony's Fishing Station.

Larry, Larry, Jr., Henry and Pat Kuhn show a bucketful of flounders taken from Shinnecock Bay. Picture by Tony's Fishing Station.

EAST MORICHES

Pat Cerullo of the Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station reported flounder fishing continues to be great throughout the Moriches Bay area. Buoy 42 and Harts Cove are just two of the productive spots. Two anglers caught 318 flounders up to a pound and a half last weekend. The bad weather experienced last week didn't hinder the fishing any.

Jim Hammer and Bill Christie found the waters off the Brown House very productive. Worms and mussels were the bait. Picture submitted by Dolly-O Fishing Station.



Bob Seifert of the Silly Lily Fishing Station says flounder are still great as shown by the mess of flounder Don Koabel caught at Harts Cove, Moriches Bay.

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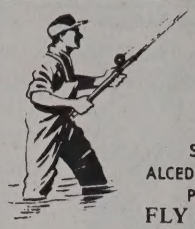

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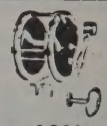

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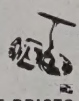

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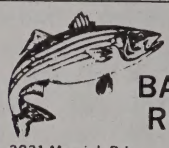

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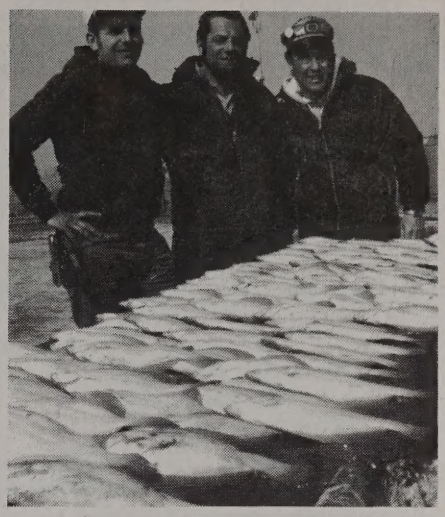
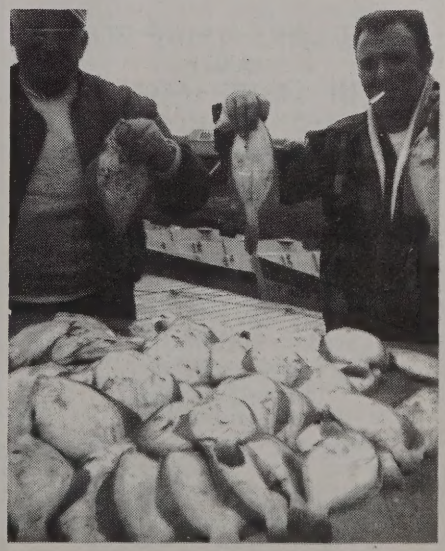


Richie Ferris, Bob Poshitte and Mike Telesco caught 150 flatties at Harts Cove. They fished on a Silly Lily skiff.

Corn and mussel chum with bloodworm bait produced these flounder for Mike Mastromonico and Joe Ramos. They fished Harts Cove out of the Dolly-O Fishing Station.

Ronald George and Harry Brechtel show some Moriches Bay flounder. Bloodworms and mussel baits were used.



Joe Wallace and his son, Charles, with flounders up to 2 lbs. These fish were taken at Buoy 21 on bloodworms and mussels. They fished out of Keenan's Fishing Station.

12th ANNUAL JONES BEACH, CAPTREE & ROBERT MOSES STATE PARK FISHING CONTEST

1971 APRIL CONTEST WINNERS

FROM THE SURF

1. Henry Doering, 132-28 114th Street, Ozone Park, N.Y., Codfish, 18 lbs. 12 ozs., Cedar Beach, 18-12/16 pts.

2. Walter Joseph, 726 11th Street, W. Babylon, N.Y., Striped Bass, 11 lbs. 5 ozs., Cedar Beach, 11-5/16 pts.

3. Whiting Evans, 96 County Line Road, Amityville, N.Y., Striped Bass, 8 lbs. 6 ozs., Cedar Beach, 8-6/16 pts.

FROM THE PIER AND BANK

1. Vito Pisano, 491 So. Oyster Bay Road, Plainview, N.Y., Blackfish, 4 lbs. 7 ozs., Captree Pier, 13-5/16 pts.

2. Toshisada Iijima, 147-22C Village Road, Jamaica, N.Y., Blackfish, 4 lbs. Captree Pier, 12 pts:

3. Margaret Bockelken, 32-23 200 Street, Bayside, N.Y., Blackfish, 3 lbs. 4 ozs., Captree Pier, 9-12/16 pts.

FROM THE BOAT

1. John Schultz, 2845 University Ave., Bronx, N.Y., Blackfish, 3 lbs. 3 ozs., Capt. Wayne Westerlind, 9-9/16 pts.

2. Nicholas Menchise, 120-40 225 Street, Cambria Heights, N.Y., Flounder, 2 lbs. 5 ozs., Capt. Stan Joseph, 6-15/16 pts.

3. Valentine Glass, 244 Ribbon St., Franklin Square, N.Y., Flounder, 2 lbs. 2 ozs., Capt. Arnold Hubert, 6-6/16 pts.

3. Rudolph Baum, 81 Robsom Pl., Hempstead, N.Y., Flounder, 2 lbs. 2 ozs., Capt. Jim Gillen, 6-6/16 pts.

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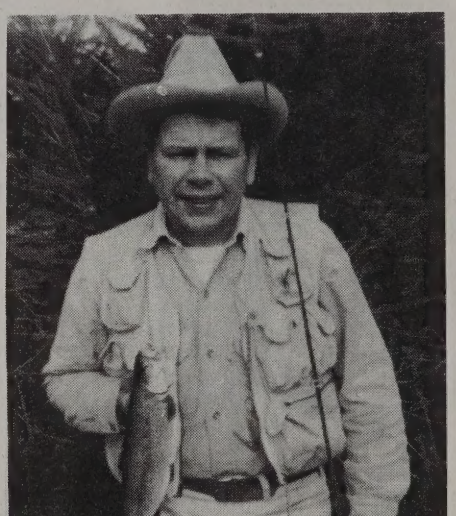
CENTER MORICHES

Chet Wilcox of the B & B Tackle Shop called in to report that flounders continue to run well and now some striped bass and weakfish are being caught to add to the fishing scene. Several bass and weaks were taken on a jigged ½ oz. yellow bucktail. Frank Leonardo and Pete Morgenson fished last Thursday in all that rain using bloodworms at Buoy 42. They were rewarded with 100 keepers for their four hour effort. Vic Agnetti and Ed Cleaver took 42 flatties out of Gardiners Bay. These fish were in the 2 to 2½ lb. class. Worms and mussel baits took these fish.

WEST SAYVILLE

Ray Demore of the South Bay Fishing Station reports that he and his son, along with Vito Intini and family fished by Buoy 30 last Sunday. They caught 28 flounders up to 2 pounds in weight. Ray, Jr. was top man with the 2 pounder. No bass have been caught as of yet. "We're waiting for the season to open up. This might come this weekend, if the rain stops."



R.H. Langdon, President of the L.I. Bassmasters of N.Y. with a 1½ lb. Rainbow Trout taken from Carmans River, Southaven Park on a red and white Daredevle.

OAK BEACH

Janette Monaco of the Oak Beach Bait & Tackle reported that flounders are plentiful despite the weather. There are also blackfish at the rocky areas. Porgies began to show along with a good showing of kingfish.

CAPTREE

Capt. Ben Litwin called in to report that the West Island and Kismet area are hot flounder fishing grounds. The fishermen are averaging 40 to 50 flatties each. The fish are averaging 1 to 1¾ lbs. with an occasional 2 pounder mixed in. Mackerel are just outside the inlet at the Whistler. When we asked Capt. Litwin how many mackerel each fisherman was catching he replied, "It's unlimited. He stops fishing when his arms are tired or when he feels he has all he can carry."

BABYLON

Augie Principe of Augie's Bait & Tackle reported local party boats are doing a fine job on flounders at Saltaire and at the lighthouse inside of Great South Bay. Blackfish are now being caught by the artificial reef in the Ocean Beach area. Mackerel are abundant offshore. They can be located on any southerly course from Fire Island Inlet. As soon as you reach water depths of 60 to 80 feet, mackerel are to be found. No bass have been taken locally yet. Weakfish are being caught both east and west of the Fire Island Inlet.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser of Wanser's Bait & Tackle reported that George Zulkofske of Jericho landed three stripers while clam chumming at the West Bar at Jones Inlet. There were other fish caught at the West Bar, adding up to good action. Flounders are still floundering at Florence Beach. Anglers are all catching their share of fish.

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Renee Neave, Mr. A. Walton and Renee's father and brother, just in from Greece, fished off Bergen Point out of Charlie's Fishing Station. They totaled 260 flounder between them.

Eleven year old Edward Cronin of Lindenhurst with flounders up to 2 lbs. 2 ozs. which he caught off the West Babylon Bergen Point Town Dock.

SEAFORD

Dell of Dell's Fishing Station reported that the flounders continued to run well through all that bad weather last weekend. John Zelinski, Jay Potter, M. Coveney and Peter McCullagh kept 53 good sized flatties. Dan Lucarello, George Starkie and Ken Smelccer caught 62 flounder. Everyone taking out a boat returned with nice catches. The most productive spot was between the 1st and 2nd Wantagh Bridge.

WANTAGH

Frank Hecker of the Causeway Bait & Tackle reported bass are being caught by surfcasters at Cedar Beach; they are using worms for bait. Artificial lures are not producing fish yet. Clam chummers at the West Bar at Jones Inlet are doing a job on stripers at times. The flounder fishing at Squaw Island remains good. Pier fishermen at Jones Beach Pier are finding sinker bouncing for flatties spotty. Joe Lehmann of N. Babylon loaded up with Boston mackerel while fishing the N.C. Buoy area last Saturday. Blackfishing is now starting at Oak Beach.

FREEPORT

Gene Forrester of the Fishing Hole, Inc. reported flounder fishing remains good at Reynolds Channel and Swift Creek. Everyone fishing there has the opportunity to catch plenty of fish. Blackfish are showing at the T Wreck and along the rocks at Jones Beach Jetty. Only a few bass were caught; nothing to brag about.

Lou from the Charvin Fishing Station called to report mackerel are abundant offshore. Anglers are having a ball catching Bostons. Henry Harris, fishing aboard the Snapshot III of Baldwin, went south of Jones and loaded up with mackerel last Friday. Eddie Arnold connected with some bass action at Hudson Point.

ISLAND PARK

Sam of Ralph's Tackle called to report stripers are being caught at Malibu Bar off Point Lookout by clam chummers. Surfcasters are producing a few fish there on worms. Flounders are still active at Garrett Lead. Local fishermen are enjoying excellent mackerel fishing offshore of Atlantic Beach.

POINT LOOKOUT

Marilyn Wardle of Ed's Fishing Station reported Ronald Remland and Norm Berman of Oceanside caught 6 stripers last Sunday while clam chumming at the West Bar at Jones Inlet. Norman Landsburg of Point Lookout connected for a 4 lb. bass, also at the West Bar. Norm lost a few fish, but the action was good. Blackfishing at the Meadowbrook Bridge has taken hold. Fish up to 4 lbs. were caught last weekend. Flounder fishing remains excellent. The season's first reported fluke catch was made by Bill Mayersich of Ridgewood. Bill's fish weighed in at 1½ lbs.

Capt. Henry Thorschmidt, skipper of the "Blue Albatross," said mackerel are in thick just outside the Jones Inlet at the Whistler Buoy. At times Capt. Henry also makes a stop at the local wrecks where blacks, whiting and ling are being caught in fair to good numbers.

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ATLANTIC BEACH TO MANASQUAN

By Greg Beacher

ATLANTIC BEACH

Leon Miller of Henning's Fishing Station reports mackerel have finally moved close to home. Anglers are loading up on mackerel a short distance from the East Rockaway Jetty. East or west, it doesn't matter what direction you choose. Mackerel fishing at the present time is great and one can't miss.

Large flounders continue to be caught from the jetty across towards 28th St. At the 28th St. Jetty blackfish are starting to be caught. At the Atlantic Beach Bridge blackfish are being caught, but one has to fight off the bergalls. Again back at East Rockaway Jetty, surfcasters fishing off the rocks are producing plenty of undersized bass on worms. At times fish from 3 to 5 lbs. are caught. By this weekend the striper fishing should stabilize.

Walter Greenfield of Far Rockaway did the trick last Thursday. Not only did he and his partner Aaron Goldfeder, also of Far Rockaway, go striper fishing off the 48th St. Jetty, not only did they troll while using wire line and a red tube lure, but they caught the seasons largest striper. Walter hooked and landed a 39 lb. striper. That's one way to start off the season. That's one fish that opened the eyes of a lot of fishermen. Guess where Walter and Aaron were Friday, Saturday and Sunday ?

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

After a week of chasing mackerel from Sea Bright across to the Farms and then towards Ambrose Tower, mackerel gave party boats a break and schooled up and became stationary. Last Saturday, boats were split up between Ambrose Tower and the N.C. Buoy. After Saturday's storm, mackerel gathered between Buoy 4 off of East Rockaway Jetty and Buoy 2 off of Jones Inlet. Every boat from Jones Beach to Sheepshead Bay loaded up. Aboard the Tampa IV, Capt. Rocky Becker informed me that fares caught from 100 to 300 lbs. of mackerel per man. Capt. Walter of the Brooklyn ran out of barrels and had to put a board across the deck to hold the days catch. Leonard Rapp of Brooklyn won the pool with a 3 pounder, chosen from some 200 mackerel that he caught. The Ranger IV loaded up with fish and returned to port early with arm weary anglers. Norman, the used car salesman, won Sunday's pool aboard the Ranger IV with a 3½ lb. Boston mackerel.

While mackerel were flying over the rail aboard the Victory, Capt. Tred Abrams announced the date for the Victory's next special offshore fishing trip. May 31st will be the day, weather permitting. All those interested should call Capt. Abrams for information and reservations.

Abe Dembowitz, aboard his boat Marcelle D, fellow member of the Sheepshead Bay Tuna Club, Joe Beebe, and crew caught their share of mackerel at Buoy 4 last Sunday. The sun didn't shine all day, but the fish bit.

Striped bass fishing is becoming more productive each day. Bass are showing on top at Rockaway Jetty and the Verrazano Bridge. Stripers, mostly of school size, are being caught from time to time. Bass taken from Steeplechase Pier are small and only a few are keepers. Larger fish should be here by the weekend and bass fishing at the Round House should start. The 39 pounder caught last week off of Atlantic Beach should start anglers trolling both up towards the east and south. During this time of the year bait fishing can't be beat. Worms and mackerel strip baits connected to fish finding rigs usually do the trick. It's a bit early for bunker dunking.

Whiting fishing at Ambrose Tower is excellent. Blackfishing action continues to mount. Commercial draggers are catching some sea porgies and sea bass in their nets. Baitfish are showing in inland bays and inlets.

First mate aboard the Betty W II, Alvin Coley, informed me that the Betty W will be making her first bluefish trip by May 19th. Last year they caught fish on May 19th and really did a job on blues at Rockaway Jetty on the 21st while jigging.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny Killoran of Santo's Sport Shop reported that last Friday, after 5 p.m., during the incoming tide, anglers fishing off the beach at Great Kills Park experienced the season's first fishing blitz. There were numbers of bass taken, however, there was one thing wrong with the fishing – 90% of the bass caught were shorts and had to be released. Only a few were keepers. Surfcasters had a wonderful night of fishing, as long as the worms lasted. At Great Kills Harbor there are plenty of shorts being caught on Rebels, Hopkins and bucktail lures. Some kingfish are being caught at Tottenville at the outer bridge crossing. Stripers are not up to par there. The largest bass of the week was caught by Frank Trapanese of Staten Island.

A few blackfish are starting to be caught. Flounder fishing is dropping to a standstill. When the blues arrive, hopefully within the next two weeks, the season should be in full swing.

SEA BRIGHT

Armand of Giglio's Bait & Tackle reports striper fishing at river and surf areas had taken hold. Up until now bait casting has been the most productive method. It won't be long before trollers and bunker dunkers take over. No one's talking but bass are being caught at the black C-SR buoy off Monmouth Beach at Sea Bright. Al Uttenger of South Amboy was tops with an 11 pounder taken from the surf at Sea Bright. Bill Johnson of Keensberg, N.J. landed a 6 pounder while drifting worms under the Sea Bright Bridge. Nick Martel of Plainsfield, N.J. caught a pair of bass that weighed in at 7 and 9 lbs. Mackerel are all over the place, like everywhere else. Last week one bluefish and one weakfish were caught at the Shrewsbury River while an angler (nameless) was casting small redfin plugs. We should have bluefishing for all by the end of May.

Capt. Bunt of the Sea Horse of the Highlands could not make up his mind last week on what to fish for. On Sunday they joined forces with the Sheepshead Bay boats and loaded up on mackerel off of Jones Inlet between Buoys 2 and 4. Everyone on board walked off the boat with a bag of mackerel. Mixed in were whiting and ling which were caught S.E. of Ambrose Tower. Jim McIntyre of Hoboken won the pool with a 3 lb. mack on Saturday. Russ Williams of Lincoln Park, N.J. was tops with a 2½ lb. mack on Sunday.

Capt. Ande Albano, who operates the charter boat Tilly, based at the Highlands Basin Landing, hit the jackpot last Sunday while fishing the Shrewsbury Rocks. His charter caught some 22 cod

and numbers of ling and whiting. This might be the last cod catch, both in size and numbers, for some time to come. These catches at this time of year only last a day or two. The cod disappear as quickly as they were located.

Mackerel fishing aboard Capt. Whitey Morenz's Miss Take II of Johnny's Landing in the Atlantic Highlands can't be beat. Whiting fishing is great. Bob Bauman of Scranton, Pa. won the pool with a 2½ lb. mackerel on Sunday. He had trouble finding his pool winning fish; as usual it was at the bottom of his loaded sack. It seems that when the east winds blow and ground swells form, whiting action slows down and it takes a day or two for the whiting to bounce back. On Saturday, during the high winds and rain, whiting fishing was good, however, on Sunday the fishing slowed to a pick.

MANASQUAN

Capt. Bogan of the new 117 ft. Jamaica has announced the dates for special offshore tile fishing trips. The Jamaica will be roaming the Hudson Canyon exclusively tile fishing on seven different occasions. During May the dates will be the 24, 26, 30 and 31. In June the 2, 5 and 6th. Those interested can call 201-223-4929 for information. At the present time there are some openings.

Capt. Bogan informed me that mackerel fishing at the Manasquan Inlet can't be beat. They're fishing only 2 to 6 miles off the beach and are loading up on fish daily. At Cape May, N.J. and along Virginia beaches, mackerel are still abundant, with new schools moving north and offshore of beach areas. If this holds true, mackerel fishing should extend until the end of May, ending when the blues make their appearance, chasing the macks towards New England. This has been the best showing of mackerel in years. This can be proven simply by the sacks of mackerel the fishermen are taking home.

Harry Conrade of Gates Bait & Tackle reports flounder fishing at the Manasquan River and canal has been exceptional during the last week. Anglers, most of all the children, are having a great time. Blackfish have started taking green crabs at Manasquan Inlet and canal. They can be caught most anywhere where holes are located. The waters are warming up somewhat. Sea robins and sun dials are being caught from time to time. Some porgies and blowfish are showing, however, you have to be lucky to locate them.

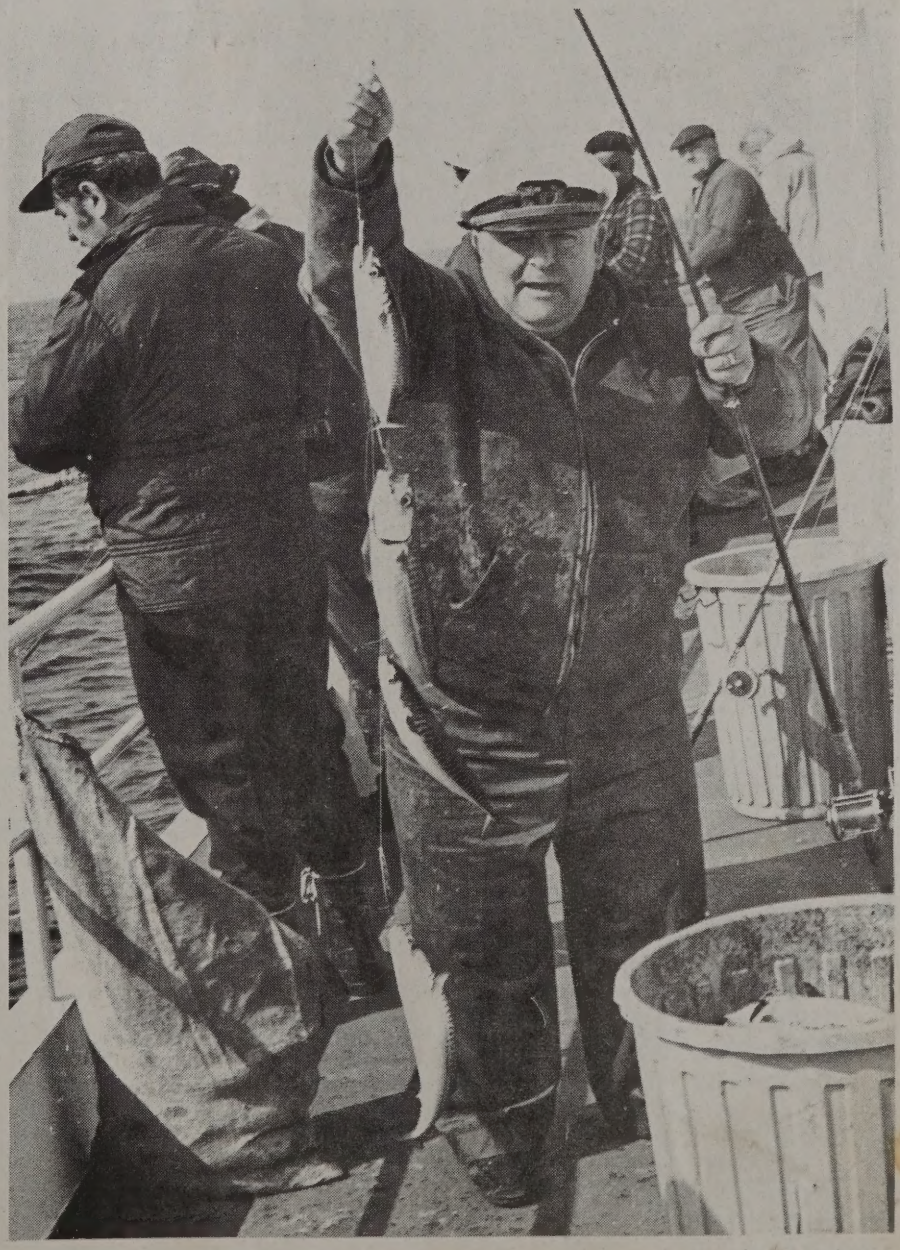
Striped bass action has been mounting daily. Bass are being caught at the canal and the inlet. The best spot is at the railroad bridge at the Manasquan Bridge. Mostly all the fish are caught on bloodworms, artificials haven't started to work yet. Gisela Armbuster of Plainfield, N.J. landed a 4½ lb. bass while fishing at the cove by Manasquan Inlet using bloodworms. Larger fish are expected shortly.

SEASIDE PARK

Eddy Blase of Eddy's Bait & Tackle reports stripers have really started to move here. Bass from schoolies on up to 17 and 18 lbs. are being caught from Barnegat to north of Island Beach State Park. Schools of mackerel are moving in and out of this area. Mackerel keep moving up from the south.

Bluefishing and kingfishing should start by this weekend. Last year these fish were present by the 15th. Whether or not the blues will be on time remains to be seen . . . .

This mess of flatties was taken by Joe Voit, Bruno Gratiea and Hank Holster of New Jersey. They fished the flats off Reynolds Channel out of Ed's Fishing Station.



Capt. Mike Scarpati of the Ranger IV shows how it's done, four at a time.

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13-Thur.	10:30	10:42
14-Fri.	11:18	11:36
15-Sat.	---------	12:12
16-Sun.	12:30	1:12
17-Mon.	1:30	2:12
18-Tues.	2:30	3:12
19-Wed.	3:36	4:12
20-Thur.	4:42	5:18

on SANDY HOOK

Long Island South Side

	h.	m.
Hempstead Bay		
Deep Creek Meadow	+1	02
Green Island	+1	22
Cuba Island	+1	08
Bellmore, Bellmore Creek	+1	29
Neds Creek	+0	50
Freeport Creek	+0	34
Freeport, Baldwin Bay	+0	38
Long Beach	+0	19
Long Beach, outer coast	- 0	29
Hempstead Bay Continued		
East Rockaway	+0	42
Woodmere, Brosewere Bay	+0	35
East Rockaway Inlet	- 0	06
Jamaica Bay		
Plumb Beach Channel	+0	03
Barren Island, Rockaway Inlet	- 0	00
Beach Channel (bridge)	+0	38
Motts Basin	+0	40
Norton Point, Head of Bay	+0	39
New York International Airport	+0	26
Grassy Bay (bridge)	+0	44
Carnarsie	+0	28
Mill Basin	+0	29
Coney Island	- 0	03
Norton Point, Gravesend Bay	- 0	03
Shinnecock Inlet (ocean)	- 0	50
Ponquogue Bridge, Shinnecock Bay	+1	25
Potunk Point, Moriches Bay	+3	35
Moriches Inlet	- 0	56
Mastic Beach, Moriches Bay	+3	28
Fire Island Breakwater	- 0	39
Democrat Point, Fire Island Inlet	- 0	38
Great South Bay		
Fire Island Light	+0	47
West Fire Island	+2	11
Point O' Woods	+2	28
Bellport, Bellport Bay	+3	44
Patchogue	+3	23
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3	39
Great River, Connetquot River	+3	20
Bay Shore	+2	23
Oak Beach	+2	24
Babylon	+2	12
Gilgo Heading	+2	23
Amityville	+2	21
Biltmore Shores, So. Oyster Bay	+2	05
Jones Inlet (Point Lookout)	- 0	19

WILLETS POINT

DAY	AM	PM
13-Thur.	1:18	1:54
14-Fri.	2:06	2:36
15-Sat.	2:54	3:30
16-Sun.	3:48	4:24
17-Mon.	4:42	5:24
18-Tues.	5:48	6:30
19-Wed.	7:00	7:42
20-Thur.	8:18	8:48

on WILLETS POINT

Long Island Sound

	h	m.
Port Chester	- 0	09
Rye Beach	- 0	14
Mamaroneck	- 0	08
New Rochelle	- 0	13
Davids Island	- 0	02
City Island	- 0	03
Throggs Neck	+0	02
Whitestone	+0	02
Old Ferry Point	+0	04
College Point, Flushing Bay	+0	20
Hewlett Point	- 0	03
Port Washington, Manhasset Bay	- 0	01
Execution Rocks	- 0	06
Glen Cove, Hempstead Harbor	- 0	11

BRIDGEPORT

DAY	AM	PM
13-Thur.	1:36	2:12
14-Fri.	2:18	3:00
15-Sat.	3:12	3:54
16-Sun.	4:06	4:48
17-Mon.	5:06	5:48
18-Tues.	6:12	6:42
19-Wed.	7:12	7:42
20-Thur.	8:12	8:36

on BRIDGEPORT

Long Island Sound

	h.	m.
Oyster Bay		
Oyster Bay Harbor	+0	04
Bayville Bridge	+0	09
Cold Spring Harbor	+0	04
Eatons Point	- 0	01
Lloyd Harbor ent. Huntingtor	- 0	01
Northport, Northport Bay	- 0	01
Nissequogue River entrance	- 0	07
Stony Brook, Smithtown B	+0	05
Stratford Shoal	- 0	09
Pt. Jefferson Harbor entrance	- 0	01
Port Jefferson	+0	02
Setauket Harbor	0	00
Conscience Bay ent. (Narrows)	+0	03
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0	05
Herod Point	- 0	11
Mattituck Inlet	+0	39
Horton Point	- 0	24
Truman Beach	- 0	46

NEW LONDON

DAY	AM	PM
13-Thur.	---------	12:12
14-Fri.	12:12	1:00
15-Sat.	1:00	1:54
16-Sun.	2:00	2:54
17-Mon.	3:06	3:54
18-Tues.	4:12	4:54
19-Wed.	5:18	5:54
20-Thur.	6:18	6:48

on NEW LONDON

	h.	m.
Plum Gut Harbor, Plum Island	+0	34
Little Gull Island	+0	17
Shelter Island Sound		
Orient	+0	41
Greenport	+1	09
Southold	+1	48
Noyack Bay	+2	10
Sag Harbor	+1	04
Cedar Island	+0	49
Peconic Bays		
New Suffolk	+2	31
South Jamesport	+2	37
Shinnecock Canal	+2	38
Three mile Hbr. ent., Gardiners Bay	+0	26
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	- 0	09
Montauk Harbor entrance	- 0	20
Montauk, Fort Pond Bay	- 0	24
Montauk Point, north side	- 1	08

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